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10/066,585	02/06/2002	Toshihisa Nakamura	121.1021	5802

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EXAMINER

LIN, KENNY S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2152

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/066,585	NAKAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kenny Lin	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. The term "simultaneously" in the claims is a relative term that renders the claim indefinite. The term "simultaneously" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is known the engineering art that multiple processes cannot be done *at the exact moment in time* (often off by a small amount of time not noticeable by men) especially in computing systems having only one processor to manage a plurality of processes.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

Art Unit: 2152

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/12/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 3-10 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shafiee et al (Shafiee), US 7,062,465.

7. As per claim 3, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed including a processing apparatus, comprising

- a. A signal receiving unit receiving a request from a first control unit (col.8, lines 45-61);
- b. An execution unit executing processing in response to the request and generating processing results (col.6, lines 28-53, col.8, lines 35-44); and
- c. A remote operation control unit simultaneously transmitting the processing results to the first control unit and to the second control unit different from the first control unit that is in a group relationship with the first control unit, where the

first control unit operates as a master in a master-slave communication established between the first control unit and the second control unit (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35).

8. As per claim 4, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 3. Shafiee further taught that the request is to remotely operate the second control unit (col.4, lines 25-30: control the kiosk, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55).

9. As per claim 7, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed including a management apparatus, comprising:

- a. A signal receiving unit receiving a request from a first apparatus (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-55, col.8, lines 35-61);
- b. An execution unit executing processing in response to the request and generating processing results (col.6, lines 28-53, col.8, lines 35-44); and
- c. A remote operation control unit simultaneously transmitting the processing results to the first apparatus and to a second apparatus different from the first apparatus and is in a group relationship with the first apparatus, where the first apparatus operates as a master in a master-slave communication established between the first apparatus and the second apparatus (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35).

10. As per claim 10, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed including a computer system, comprising:

- a. A first apparatus (fig.1: agent station);
- b. A management apparatus receiving processing requests from the first apparatus, executing processing in response to the processing requests, and generating processing results (col.6, lines 28-53, col.8, lines 35-44); and
- c. A second apparatus remotely operated by the first apparatus and is in a group relationship with the first apparatus (col.4, lines 25-30: control the kiosk, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55), wherein the management apparatus simultaneously transmits the processing results to the first apparatus and to the second apparatus, and the second apparatus executing processing in response to the processing results, where the first apparatus operates as a master in a master-slave communication established between the first apparatus and the second apparatus (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35).

11. As per claim 12, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed in claim 10. Shafiee further taught that the request is a request to obtain a web page (col.12, lines 54-62), the execution unit obtains the web page (col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35), and the remote operation control unit simultaneously transmits the web page obtained by the execution unit to

Art Unit: 2152

the first control unit and to the second control unit (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, col.13, lines 31-38).

12. As per claims 13 and 17-18, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed including a remote operation method and process, comprising:

- a. Receiving a processing request from a first control unit operating as a master in a master-slave communication established between the first control unit and a second control unit (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.8, lines 35-61), executing processing in response to the request and generating processing results (col.6, lines 28-53, col.8, lines 35-61), and simultaneously transmitting the processing results to the first control unit and to the second control unit that is different from the first control unit and is in a group relationship with the first control unit (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35).

13. As per claims 5, 8 and 14, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed in claim 3, 7 and 13. Shafiee further taught that the second control unit comprises a plurality of control units (col.4, lines 16-20; one or more).

14. As per claims 6, 9 and 15, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed in claims 3, 7, 10 and 13. Shafiee further taught that the request is a request to obtain a web page (col.12, lines 54-62),

Art Unit: 2152

the execution unit obtains the web page (col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35), and the remote operation control unit simultaneously transmits the web page obtained by the execution unit to the first control unit and to the second control unit (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, col.13, lines 31-38).

15. As per claim 16, Shafiee taught the invention as claimed including a remote operation method comprising:

- a. Receiving a processing request from a first apparatus connected to a second apparatus by a network (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-55, col.8, lines 35-61);
- b. Executing processing in response to the processing request and generating processing results (col.6, lines 28-53, col.8, lines 35-44); and
- c. Simultaneously transmitting the processing results to the first apparatus and to the second apparatus that is in a group relationship with the first apparatus, where the first apparatus operates as a master in a master-slave communication established between the first apparatus and the second apparatus (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2152

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 1-2, 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafiee et al (Shafiee), US 7,062,465, in view of Butler, US 6,584,493.

18. As per claim 1, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed including a method, comprising:

- a. Sending a request from a first device to a management device to remotely operate a second device (col.8, lines 45-61);
- b. Establishing, by the management device, a remote operation relationship between the first device as a master device and the second device as a slave device in a master-slave communication established between the first device and the second device (col.4, lines 25-30: control the kiosk, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55);
- c. Sending another request from the first device to the management device to obtain a web page (col.12, lines 54-62, fig.1: module 164);
- d. Obtaining the web page by the management device from a web server and sending the web page to the first device and to the second device that is in a group relationship with the first device (col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35); and

- e. Displaying the web page on a display of the first device and the second device, where the second device responds to commands of the first device operating as the master device (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, col.13, lines 31-38).

19. Shafiee did not specifically teach to disable user operations of the second device. Butler taught to disable user operations of the slave device by locking mouse and keyboards (col.3, lines 17-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Shafiee and Butler because Butler's teaching of disabling input operations ensures the users of Shafiee's method to view information displayed on the screen without interruption.

20. As per claim 2, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed including a remote operation system, comprising:

- a. A management device (fig.1: call center server);
- b. A first device connected to the management device via a network (fig.1: agent station); and
- c. A second device connected to the management device via a network (fig.1: kiosk),

Wherein the first device sends a request to the management device to remotely operate the second device (col.8, lines 45-61), the management device establishes a remote operations relationship including a master-slave communication between the first device as a master device and the second device as a slave device (col.4, lines 25-30: control the kiosk, col.5, lines 66-67,

Art Unit: 2152

col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55); the first device sends another request to the management device to obtain a web page (col.12, lines 54-62, fig.1: module 164), the management device obtains the web page from a web server and sends the web page obtained to the first device and to the second device that is in a group relationship with the first device (col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35), and the first device and the second device each display the web page on a display and the second device responds to commands of the first device operating as the master device (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, col.13, lines 31-38).

21. Shafiee did not specifically teach to disable user operations of the second device. Butler taught to disable user operations of the slave device by locking mouse and keyboards (col.3, lines 17-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Shafiee and Butler because Butler's teaching of disabling input operations ensures the users of Shafiee's method to view information displayed on the screen without interruption.

22. As per claim 11, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 10. Shafiee did not specifically teach that the user operation of the second apparatus is disabled when the second apparatus is being remotely operated. Butler taught to disable user operations of the slave device by locking mouse and keyboards (col.3, lines 17-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Shafiee and Butler because Butler's teaching of disabling input operations ensures the users of Shafiee's method to view information displayed on the screen without interruption.

23. As per claim 19, Shafiee taught the invention substantially as claimed including a remote operation method of controlling devices, comprising:

- a. Identifying a group affiliation of a first device requesting a connection (col.5, lines 62-65, col.8, lines 45-61, col.9, lines 64-67, col.10, lines 1-15);
- b. Transmitting a request of the first device to a second device having the group affiliation of the first device to obtain information on behalf of the first device, the first device operating in a master-slave communication established between the first device and the second device (col.4, lines 25-30, col.5, lines 5-10, 17-22, 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 48-55, col.13, lines 31-38, col.14, lines 4-9, col.18, lines 33-35); and
- c. Establishing a remote operation between the second device operating as a master client and the first device operating as a slave client (col.4, lines 25-30: control the kiosk, col.5, lines 66-67, col.6, lines 1-7, 28-43, 58-55).

24. Shafiee did not specifically teach to disable user operations of the first device. Butler taught to disable user operations of the slave device by locking mouse and keyboards (col.3, lines 17-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Shafiee and Butler because Butler's teaching of disabling input operations ensures the users of Shafiee's method to view information displayed on the screen without interruption.

Response to Arguments

25. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ketola et al, US 6,879,997.

Rees, US 2004/0098493.

Scherpbier, US 5,944,791.

27. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM Tue.-Fri. and every other Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2152

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksl
August 31, 2006

